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ABSTRACT

This worksheet is a supplement to "ERIC Basics: How To Use ERIC To Search Your Special Education Topic." It provides an example of how a special education question can be converted to a strategy for searching the ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) database. The worksheet suggests that the ERIC user write the topic in his or her own words, divide the topic into two or three basic concepts, use the "Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors" to locate the subject terms that best represent the concepts, and combine the descriptors using ANDs and ORs. A list of the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the 16 ERIC clearinghouses is included, with a note that each clearinghouse has responsibility for providing information services within its subject area and can assist in development of search strategies. The ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education is listed as the clearinghouse with primary responsibility for special education information. (JDD)

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ERIC Worksheet

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ERIC Basics: Search Planning Worksheet and List of ERIC Clearinghouses

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How to use the ERIC Search Planning Sheet

The example on the right shows how a special education question can be converted to a strategy for searching the ERIC database. Use the blank worksheet below to plan your search as follows: (1) write your topic in your own words, (2) divide the topic into two or three basic concepts, (3) use *The Thesaurus of ERIC Descriptors* to locate the descriptors (subject terms) that best represent the concepts in your topic, (4) combine the descriptors using ANDs and ORs, keeping in mind that ANDs limit and focus your search and ORs expand your search. (If you cannot locate an ERIC Thesaurus, call the ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education for help in planning your search, 800/328-0272 or 703/264-9474.)

ERIC Search Planning Sheet Example

TOPIC:

How have computers been used to improve the
writing skills of students with learning disabilities?

CONCEPTS AND ERIC DESCRIPTORS

Concept 1 learning disabilities	and	Concept 2 computers	and	Concept 3 writing
Learning Disabilities		Computer Assisted Instruction OR Computer Uses in Education		Writing Instruction OR Writing (Composition) OR Writing Skills

ERIC Search Planning Sheet

TOPIC:

CONCEPTS AND ERIC DESCRIPTORS

Concept 1	and	Concept 2	and	Concept 3

Note. This worksheet is a supplement to *ERIC Basics: How to Use ERIC to Search Your Special Education Topic*, which is available from the ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education (Stock No. E523).

ERIC Clearinghouses

The ERIC clearinghouses have responsibility within the network for acquiring the significant educational literature within their particular areas, selecting the highest quality and most relevant material, processing (i.e., cataloging, indexing, abstracting) the selected items for input to the database, and also for providing information analysis products and various user services based on the database.

The ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education, located at The Council for Exceptional Children, has the primary responsibility for collecting the literature in this area; however, if your topic overlaps the scope of other clearinghouses, you may want to contact them for information on special clearinghouse publications.

ERIC Clearinghouse on Adult, Career, and Vocational Education
Ohio State University, Center on Education and Training for Employment
1900 Kenny Road
Columbus, OH 43210-1090
614/292-4353; 800/848-4815

ERIC Clearinghouse on Assessment and Evaluation
209 O'Boyle Hall, The Catholic University of America
Washington, DC 20064
202/319-5120

ERIC Clearinghouse for Community Colleges
University of California at Los Angeles
Mathematical Sciences Building, Room 8118
405 Hilgard Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90024-1564
310/825-3931; 800/832-8256

ERIC Clearinghouse on Counseling and Student Services
ERIC/CASS, School of Education, Curry Building
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Greensboro, NC 27412-5001
919/334-4114; 800/414-9769

ERIC Clearinghouse on Disabilities and Gifted Education
The Council for Exceptional Children
1920 Association Drive
Reston, VA 22091-1589
703/264-9474; 800/328-0272

ERIC Clearinghouse on Educational Management
University of Oregon
1787 Agate Street
Eugene, OR 97403-5207
503/346-5043; 800/438-8841

ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education
University of Illinois, College of Education
805 W. Pennsylvania Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801-4897
217/333-1386

ERIC Clearinghouse on Higher Education
The George Washington University
One DuPont Circle, NW, Suite 630
Washington, DC 20036-1183
202/296-2597

ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology
Syracuse University
Huntington Hall, Room 030
Syracuse, NY 13244-4100
315/443-3640; 800/464-9107

ERIC Clearinghouse on Languages and Linguistics
Center for Applied Linguistics
1118 22nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037-0037
202/429-9292

ERIC Clearinghouse on Reading, English, and Communication
Indiana University, Smith Research Center
2805 East 10th Street, Suite 150
Bloomington, IN 47406-2698
812/855-5847; 800/759-4723

ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools
Appalachia University
1031 Quarrier Street, PO Box 1348
Charleston, WV 25325-1348
304/347-0400; 800/624-9120

ERIC Clearinghouse on Science, Mathematics, and Environmental Education
Ohio State University
1929 Kenny Rd. Columbus, OH 43210-1080
614/292-6717

ERIC Clearinghouse on Social Studies/Social Science Education
Indiana University, Social Studies Development Center
2805 E. 10th Street, Suite 120
Bloomington, IN 47406-2698
812/855-3838; 800/266-3815

ERIC Clearinghouse on Teaching and Teacher Education
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
One DuPont Circle, NW, Suite 610
Washington, DC 20036-1186
202/293-2450

ERIC Clearinghouse on Urban Education
Teachers College, Columbia University
Institute for Urban and Minority Education
Main Hall, Room 300, Box 40
525 West 120th Street
New York, NY 10027-9998
212/678-3433; 800/601-4868

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800/443-ERIC

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